

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a spin valve thin film magnetic element capable of preventing the occurrence of side reading, and a method of manufacturing the same. In the spin valve thin film magnetic element, nonmagnetic conductive layers, pinned magnetic layers and antiferromagnetic layers are laminated on both sides of a free magnetic layer in the thickness direction to form a laminate on a substrate. Also, bias layers and lead layers are provided on both sides of the laminate in the track width direction. Of the antiferromagnetic layers, at least the antiferromagnetic layer apart from the substrate is made narrower than the free magnetic layer in the track width direction to form lead connecting portions of the laminate on both sides of the narrow antiferromagnetic layer in the track width direction. The lead layers are formed to extend from both sides of the laminate in the track width direction to the center thereon and to be connected to the laminate 12 through the lead connecting portions.